

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Anderson. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring that secures the valve seat in place and wherein the retaining ring defines an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter defined by the valve seat. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Applicant teaches that in this manner the inner edge of seat 34 is recessed out of the way of the main fluid path as it flows through valve 10. In the present invention the seat 34 is held out of the way of the fluid flow (Specification, p. 5, lines 3-13 and Fig. 1). Anderson's retaining ring 32 does not have a diameter less than the diameter of seat 30. Therefore, Anderson does not disclose all of the structural limitations of Applicant's Claim 1 as amended. Therefore, Applicant's Claim 1 is not anticipated by the Anderson reference. Dependent Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 incorporate the same limitations as their independent Claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Applicant has also amended independent Claim 9 to incorporate a similar limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring wherein the inner diameter defined by the valve seat is larger than an inner diameter of the retaining ring. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Applicant teaches that in this manner the inner edge of seat 34 is recessed out of the way of the main fluid path as it flows through valve 10. In the present invention the seat 34 is held out of the way of the fluid flow (Specification, p. 5, lines 3-13, and Figure 1). Anderson's retaining ring 32 does not have a diameter less than the diameter of seat 30. Therefore, Anderson does not disclose all the limitations of Claim 9. Applicant's Claims 10-11 and 13-16 incorporate the limitations of their independent Claim 9 as amended and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons as discussed with reference to Claim 9.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected as being anticipated by Stein. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring

that secures the valve seat in place and wherein the retaining ring defines an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter defined by the valve seat. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Applicant has also amended independent Claim 9 to incorporate a similar limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring wherein the inner diameter defined by the valve seat is larger than an inner diameter of the retaining ring. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Stein does not have a separate retaining ring element that is removably secured in the body. Therefore, Stein does not disclose all the elements of Claims 1 and 9. Therefore, Claims 1 and 9 and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Stein.

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 13-17 are rejected as being anticipated by Williams. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring that secures the valve seat in place and wherein the retaining ring defines an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter defined by the valve seat. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Applicant has also amended independent Claim 9 to incorporate a similar limitation of a removably disposed retaining ring wherein the inner diameter defined by the valve seat is larger than an inner diameter of the retainer ring. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 1, retaining ring 16 has an internal diameter D2 and seat 34 has an internal diameter D1. Seat diameter D1 is larger than retaining ring diameter D2. Williams does not have a separate retaining ring element that is removably secured in the body. Therefore, Williams does not disclose all the elements of Claims 1 and 9. Therefore, Claims 1 and 9 and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Williams.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has canceled claims 2 and 3. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 9 and 15.

Applicant respectfully submits the claims as amended define over the cited prior art and are allowable. Applicant requests removal of the rejections and early allowance of this case.

Applicant's attorney is available to discuss the case with the Examiner if it would assist in advancing prosecution of the case.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABSTRACT INCLUDED WITH THIS RESPONSE

Applicant filed a supplementary IDS on February 22, 2005. Included in the Supplementary IDS was French Patent 2 513 343 A. At the time the IDS and reference were submitted Applicant did not have an English language translation of the reference. Applicant has secured an English language translation of the French reference and is submitting it to the Examiner with this Office Action response.

REQUEST FOR RETURN OF SIGNED COPY OF FORM 1449
SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 22, 2005

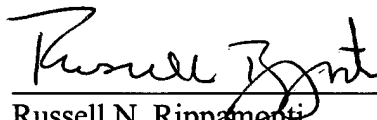
Applicant requests the Examiner sign and return the PTO FORM 1449 submitted with Applicant's IDS of February 22, 2005.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

4/27/05



Russell N. Rippamonti
Reg. No. 39,521

Fish & Richardson P.C.
5000 Bank One Center
1717 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone: (214) 292-4031
Facsimile: (214) 747-2091

Submit with
Resp to OA

1 / 1 WPAT - ©Thomson Derwent

Accession Nbr :

1983-39780K [17]

Sec. Acc. CPI :

C1983-038830

Sec. Acc. Non-CPI :

N1983-072358

Title :

Seat for a ball valve - has a dual function of sealing and supporting the rotating valve

Derwent Classes :

A88 Q66

Patent Assignee :

(GACH/) GACHOT J

Inventor(s) :

GACHOT J

Nbr of Patents :

1

Nbr of Countries :

1

Patent Number :

FR2513343 A 19830325 DW1983-17 14p *

Priority Details :

1981FR-0017622 19810918

IPC s :

F16K-005/06

Abstract :

FR2513343 A

The ball valve consists of a cylindrical housing clamping between two pipe flanges. The spherical valve rotates through ninety degrees between open and closed positions. The valve seals (11) are mfd. from PTFE and combine the role of valve seat and support. The PTFE seal is in the form of a shallow dish (18) with a spherical inner surface (12) to match the ball. An annular extension (17) provides a circumferential edge (13) which locates the seal in the body of the valve whilst the back, plane surface (16) is supported against the pipework flange.

Manual Codes :

CPI: A04-E08B A12-H07

Update Basic :

1983-17